

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** non-elected claims 2-7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Please **amend** claim 1. Please **add** new claims 8-13.

1. (Currently Amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes a maize protein or fragment thereof comprising a nucleic acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17472 of SEQ ID NO: 3.~~

2-7 (Cancelled)

8. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.

9. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid molecule consists of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.

10. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 90% sequence identity with a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.

11. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 95% and 100% sequence identity with a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.

12. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 11, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 98% sequence identity with a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.

13. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 99% and 100% sequence identity with a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or complement thereof.